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U Can Wait

By Joshua Esquer Davis

A Persuasive Speech

In Massachusetts, an 18-year-old boy was convicted of killing a 55-year-old man. His weapon of choice was a cell phone.

According to the University of Utah, the use of a cell phone while driving slows a driver's reaction speed to the equivalent of someone with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent. Texting is very common as a mode of conversing, but in the hands of a driver, this combination can be deadly. According to Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, a texting driver is 23 times more likely to be involved in a car accident than a non-texting driver. Sadly, this trend is becoming increasingly popular among teens and young adults.

A 2011 Harris Poll stated that over 49% of drivers under the age of 35 send or receive text messages while driving. A text message on average takes the driver's eyes off the road for five seconds, but in this time, the car will have traveled over the length of a football field! This is easily enough time and length to have a serious accident.

Twenty-eight percent of all accidents are caused by cell phone usage. These accidents kill over 920 people a year in the United States alone. Sadly, there are many people who tend to overestimate their own skills when operating a vehicle. If this 18-year-old has not over estimated his skills, this death of someone's father/husband/friend could have been avoided.

When people text while driving, they not only endanger themselves but everybody on the road with them. Do not text and drive. These conversations can wait.

